Scarce and rare birds in Wales 2011

Cymdeithas Adaryddol Cyrmu
Welsh Ornithological Society

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Editor: Jon Green

Front cover photo. Isabelline Shrike by R. Stonier.

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Introduction

This is the fourteenth annual report of the Welsh Records Panel (WRP) covering the occurrence of rare and scarce species in Wales in 2011.

	0-1 records	2-5 records	6-10 records	11-20 records	21-50 records	51-100 records	100+ records	Total
2011	0	4	8	10	30	26	72	150
2010	2	7	1	10	33	16	69	136
2009	1	4	1	19	50	8	25	108
2008	0	6	8	17	32	13	33	109
2007	2	6	7	5	10	5	3	39
2006	1	5	4	5	18	12	12	57

2011 was an excellent year for rare birds in Wales, with the highest number of submissions WRP has ever had to deal with (nearly 150 submissions). Although there were no new birds for Wales this year, it was a bumper year for Shrikes, with Isabelline, Lesser Grey, Red-backed and eight Woodchats. The year also produced Wales' 5th Isabelline Wheatear, 6th Desert Wheatear, 3rd White-billed Diver, 3rd Black-headed Wagtail, 4th Citrine Wagtail and two Western Bonelli's Warblers. Added to this was seven Woodlarks (plus at least two breeding pairs), an influx of eleven Buff-breasted Sandpipers, seven Pectoral Sandpipers, three Stone Curlews, six Great Shearwaters, nine Great White Egrets, five Pallas's Warblers, six Melodious Warblers and six Rose-coloured Starlings.

This report follows the taxonomy, names and systematic sequence of the new BOU British List (2011) and includes all those records assessed by the WRP along with those accepted by BBRC (shown in italics). Descriptions of scarce species were received from the County Recorders of all Welsh Counties and occasionally directly from the observers. The report includes many digital photos and WRP welcomes the submission of any photographic evidence but this ideally should be accompanied by supporting evidence. Occasionally the Panel also receives descriptions of other species to assess from County Recorders and Editors. These are not detailed in this report.

WRP would like to thank everyone who submitted records, all the photographers, the County Recorders and everyone else who has helping in the assessment process.

Scarce species (assessed by WRP) are defined as those occurring on average 5 times or fewer annually in Wales. As of Jan. 1st 2011 the full list of species which the Panel considers is as follows:

Bean Goose, American Wigeon, Green-winged Teal, Ring-necked Duck, Ferruginous Duck, Surf Scoter, White-billed Diver, Cory's Shearwater, Great Shearwater, Wilson's Petrel, Night Heron, Great White Egret, Cattle Egret, Purple Heron, White Stork, Black Kite, Montagu's Harrier, Rough-legged Buzzard, White-tailed Eagle, Golden Eagle, Red-footed Falcon, Corncrake, Spotted Crake, Crane, Stone-Curlew, American Golden Plover, Kentish Plover, Temminck's Stint, White-rumped Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Red-necked Phalarope, Ring-billed Gull, Caspian Gull, White-winged Black Tern, Alpine Swift, Bee-eater, Golden Oriole, Red-backed Shrike, Woodchat Shrike, Bearded Tit, Short-toed Lark, Wood Lark, Shore Lark, Red-rumped Swallow, Greenish Warbler, Dusky Warbler, Radde's Warbler, Pallas's Warbler, Barred Warbler, Subalpine Warbler, Icterine Warbler, Melodious Warbler, Aquatic Warbler, Marsh Warbler, Rose-coloured Starling, Nightingale, Bluethroat, Red-breasted Flycatcher, Red-throated Pipit, Richard's Pipit, Tawny Pipit, Serin, Common Redpoll, Arctic Redpoll, Common Rosefinch, Corn Bunting, Cirl Bunting, Ortolan Bunting, Rustic Bunting and Little Bunting.

Scarce races are considered on the same basis (ie. all those occurring on average 5 times or fewer annually). However, it is acknowledged that the status, and in some case the identification, of some races is very uncertain. The WRP welcomes well-documented submissions of races that observers consider to be scarce in Wales. Through this process we hope to establish the occurrence of these forms but submissions will probably in most cases require detailed descriptions, photographic evidence and in some cases biometrics or a specimen.
BBRC have requested submission of rare races (see Kehoe, C. 2006 Racial identification and assessment in Britain, British Birds 99: 619-645 for extra guidance) and the WRP will forward any claims that are considered sufficiently rare for BBRC to assess. Examples of races for which the WRP would like to receive reports are Black Brant Goose – *nigricans*, Iceland Gull – *kumlieni*, Common Guillemot – *hyperborea*, Razorbill – *torda*, Little Auk – *polaris*, Great Spotted Woodpecker – *major*, Grey-headed Wagtail - *thunbergi*, Siberian Chiffchaff – *tristis,* Treecreeper – *familaris,* Coal Tit – *ater*, Jay – *glandarius,* Jackdaw – *monedula,* Redpolls – *islandica / rostrata,* and Bullfinch –*pyrrhula*.

In the systematic list the figures following each species / race name refer to the number of accepted individuals in Wales up to 1991 [included in Birds in Wales (Lovegrove et al)], since 1991 but not including 2010 and finally the number this year. Where two records probably relate to the same bird then only one is added to the total, while if two records are only possibly of the same bird, then both are added into the totals. In some cases the figures suggest changes in occurrence in the last twenty years, although it should be noted that some apparent declines may be due, to some extent, to a decline in the habit of observers submitting descriptions or some apparent increases to improved identification criteria and better optics or cameras.
The names that appear after individual records are of those observers who sent in descriptions (if the finder is known then his /her name is included in italics) and are included here to show recognition of the time taken to produce a description and also the observer's commitment to the nationally recognised system of rare bird record assessment, unless there is a specific request that their name is not shown.
The Panel consists of six voting members, in 2012 they were: Reg Thorpe (Chairman) – Caernarfon, Mike Powell – Glamorgan, Steve Culley – Anglesey, Marc Hughes – Caernarfon, Richard Dobbins - Pembroke, Steve Stansfield - Bardsey and a non-voting Secretary, Jon Green - Ceredigion. The longest serving member of the Panel retires and a new member is elected annually by the Welsh County Recorders and the Council of the Welsh Ornithological Society. WRP is always on the lookout for new members, anyone who is interested should contact their County Recorder or the WRP Secretary.
Descriptions, photos, videos and any other relevant evidence of WRP species should be submitted as soon as possible after the sighting (WRP description forms are available from the Secretary / County Recorders and downloadable from the WOS Website), preferably via the County Recorder or alternatively direct to the **WRP Secretary: Jon Green, Crud yr Awel, Bowls Road, Blaenporth, Cardigan. Ceredigion. SA43 2AR. (01239 811561).** The Panel are keen to receive any descriptions or photographs of electronic form, either on disc or by e-mail: **welshrarebirds@tiscali.co.uk**
Details of records submitted, but not found acceptable or currently pended for information are found in appendix 1.

Systematic List of Accepted Records in 2011

Bean Goose (- , 10, 3)
Anser fabalis
Gwydd y Llafur
Breeds in the Arctic and colder boral zones. Range has contracted in Norway and Sweden in recent times.
Anglesey: three of the race *rossicus*, at Llyn Coron 15th – 17th Nov. (A. Davies per S. Culley).
Photo. opposite by S. Culley.

Green-winged Teal (10, 31, 0)
Anas carolinensis *Corhwyaden Asgell - Werdd*
Breeds in North America. Males.
Gwent: Peterstone Wentloog, 26th Mar. (A. Plant, photos RM Price, C. Woodhead).
Pembroke: at Sprinkle Pill, Cleddau on 16th Jan (DJ Astins)
presumed same at Marloes Mere 12th Feb. – 2nd May (S. Sutcliffe, S. Tusa et al), then at Penberi Res., St. David's 6th May (L. Lomax, B. Davies)
All these records are assumed to relate to returning individuals.

Blue-winged Teal (4, 3, 1)
Anas discors *Corhwyaden Asgell-las*
Breeds North America.
Carmarthen: male, Sandy Water Park, Llanelli, 20th Mar. – 1st May (G. Harper et al).
This remains a good find in Wales, the second county record for Carmarthen after one at Penclacwydd in March 2000. Photo below by RHA Taylor.

Ring-necked Duck (12, 25, 0)

Aythya collaris *Hwyaden Dorchog*

Breeds North America, winters south to Costa Rica.
Carmarthen: female, Llyn Pencarreg from 22nd Oct. 2010 into January 2011 (A. Williams), presumed same at Talley17th – 22nd Jan. (I. Wagstaff, I. Hainsworth), then at Penclacwydd, 22nd Apr. (RH Taylor).
Pembroke: returning female, Bosherston 8th Jan – 24th Mar (DJ Astins et al).
No new individuals reported this year, just the two wintering females, one of which was rather mobile, visiting three different sites.

Bosherston R.N. Duck by DJ Astins.

Lesser Scaup (0, 3, 0)

Aythya affinis *Hwyaden Benddu Leiaf*

Breeds from C Alaska through Canada to Hudson Bay & S to Washington & South Dakota. Isolated populations E of Great Lakes. Winters along both coastlines of USA, in E from New Jersey to Mexico, W Indies, C America to N Colombia.

E. Glamorgan: male, Cosmeston Lakes / Cardiff Bay,7th Nov. 2010 – 2nd Apr. 2011, returning 28th Dec. into 2012 (per county recorder).
Female, Eglwys Nunydd Res., 16th Feb. – 6th Mar. (M. Hipkin).

Presumed returning individuals.

Surf Scoter (22, 29, 0)

Melanitta perspicillata *Mor-hwyaden yr Ewyn*

Breeds northern North America, winters on the Atlantic coast, south to North Carolina.

Denbigh: two males, north Wales coast, 6th - 18th Mar., returning 6th Nov, until the end of the year (M. Hughes et al).

There are assumed to two out of the three males that wintered in the same area last year.

Cory's Shearwater (34, 61, 3)

Calonectris diomedea *Aderyn Drycin Cory*

A temperate to tropical species, nesting in colonies and rocky islands in the Canaries, Madeira and Azores and through the Mediterranean.

Pembroke: Strumble Head, 17th July (R. Stonier).
Strumble Head 21st Aug. (A. Rogers).

E. Glam.: Porthcawl, 7th Aug. (M. Hnatiuk).

Great Shearwater (81, 155, 6)

Puffinus gravis *Aderyn Drycin Mawr*

Late summer / autumn passage migrant that breeds in the south Atlantic.

Gower: Worm's Head, 7th Aug. (P. Howlett). Photos. below.

Pembroke: two, Strumble Head, 5th Sept. (A. Rogers).
two, Strumble Head, 6th Sept. (SE Berry).

Caernarfon: Bardsey, 7th Sept. (SD Stansfield, S. Hinde).

The winds blew well this year for this species, interestingly the Gower bird occurred on the same day as a Cory's was seen off Porthcawl and that the Bardsey bird was on the same day as two were seen passing Strumble Head.

White-billed Diver (1, 1, 1)

Gavia adamsii *Trochydd Pigwen*

Pembroke: 1st / 2nd summer, Strumble Head 1st Sept. (R. Stonier).

Potentially the third Welsh record, following the wintering bird in Holyhead Harbour, Anglesey February – May 1991, while the other was also seen passing Strumble on 27th Sept. 1999.

Great White Egret (5, 28, 9)

Ardea alba *Creyr Mawr Gwyn*

Breeds Netherlands in small numbers and from Hungary eastwards to Japan and south Australia, Africa south of the Sahara also southern North, Central and South America. European population winters mostly in the north Mediterranean. This species dropped off the BBRC list of rare birds, onto the WRP list as of Jan. 1st 2006.

Carmarthen: Penclacwydd, 14th – 17th July (P. Phillips et al) also at Llangennech on the same date (P. & S. Murray), then as below.

Gower/Carm: up to three, Burry Inlet, a single from 14th July, increasing to two from 17th Oct. and three from 28th Nov.

Denbigh: Conwy RSPB, 14th Oct. (D. O'Hara).

Ceredigion: Ynyshir, 15th Oct. (R. Relph).

Brecon: Talybont Res., 25th Oct. (P. Simms, R. Musker), Llangorse 18th Dec. until 25th Mar. 2012 (per County recorder).

Pembroke: Bosherston, 13th Nov. (C. Hurford).

E. Glam.: Cardiff, 6th Nov. (S. Strutt).

Great White Egrets, left at Penclacwydd by RHA Taylor, above at Bosherston by C. Hurford,

Great White Egrets, above at Ynyshir by B. Ralph, right at Llangorse by K. Noble.

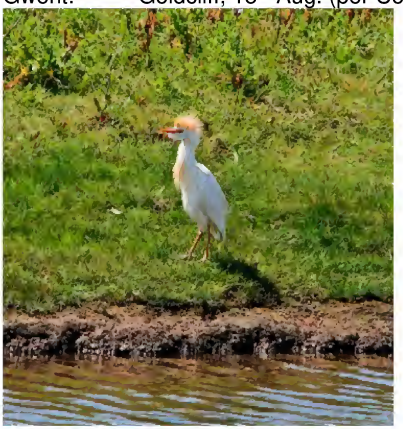
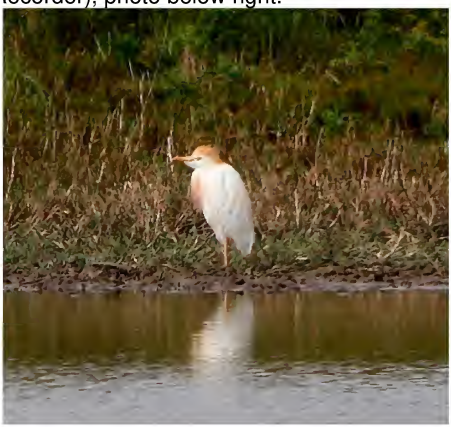
Cattle Egret (5, 32, 2)

Bubulcus ibis *Creyr y Gwartheg*

Common and widespread in S. Spain & Portugal with small expanding populations in France and Italy. Northern populations disperse outside the breeding season, mostly into Africa.

Carmarthen: Penclacwydd, 2nd July (P. Treharne). Photo below left.

Gwent: Goldcliff, 15th Aug. (per County Recorder), photo below right.

Purple Heron (38, 16, 3)

Ardea purpurea

Creyr Porffor

Dispersive migrant, from warmer temperate to tropical zones, southern Europe.

Anglesey: Dwyan, 4th Apr. (J. Carter, photo M. Hughes).

E. Glam: Kenfig, 22nd – 23rd Apr. (S. Murray). Photo opposite.

Ceredigion: Ynyshir, 7th – 8th May (J. Davis).

Purple Heron, above at Dwyan, Anglesey by S. Culley.
Right at Ynyshir B. Relph.

Black Stork (5, 2, 2)

Ciconia nigra *Ciconia Du*

A vagrant.

Brecon: Twyn-yr-odyn, Brecon, 8th May (J. & L. Hole).

E. Glam.: Mynydd Ty-talwyn, Maesteg, 22nd May (J. Slocombe, P. Tabor).

This remains a very rare visitor to Wales, with most records referring to fly-byes. The last twitchable one was on the Alaw Estuary on Anglesey in 2007.

White Stork (- , 21, 1)

Ciconia ciconia

Ciconai Gwyn

Migrant in warmer Boreal to warm temperate zones, USSR, China and central Europe.

E. Glam.: Aberdulais, 29th – 30th Apr. (R. Jones, W. Wadsworth-Davies).

Gwent: presumed same as above, Mathern, 30th Apr. (P. Morton).

Photo opposite at Aberdulas.

Glossy Ibis (11, 32, 4)

Plegadis falcinellus *Crymanbig Ddu*

Migrant from warm temperate and tropical zones, Greece, Turkey, North Africa and the Middle East.

Anglesey: Malltraeth Marsh RSPB, 15th – 19th Nov. (per County Recorder).

Carmarthen: Kidwelly, 29th Sept. – 2nd Oct. (G. Harper et al).

E. Glamorgan: Ogmore, 30th Sept. – 5th Oct. (DC Bolt, NP Roberts, et al).

Gwent: juv., Newport Wetlands, 9th Oct. (photo M. Chown et al)

Yet more records of this once rare heron – it's only a matter of time before they drop off the BBRC list onto the WRP one.

Above: Kidwelly Glossy Ibis by G. Harper.
Right: Ogmore Glossy Ibis by P Roberts.

Black Kite (6, 7, 1)

Milvus migrans *Barcud du*

E. Glam: Parc Slip, 28th Sept. (M. Hnatiuk).

This species has occurred almost annually of late – climate change or are observers more likely to notice an odd kite these days ?

Montagu's Harrier (- , 12 , 1)

Circus pygargus

Bod Montagu

Rare visitor and massage migrant which formerly bred in small numbers.

Anglesey: male, Holyhead, 2nd – 4th May

(KG Croft, per S. Culley).

Photo. opposite by S. Culley.

Observers are reminded to include in their descriptions of this species why Pallid Harrier was ruled out.

Corn Crake (-, 42, 2)

Crex crex *Rhegen yr Yd*

Very rare breeding bird in Britain, mainly in north & western Scotland and Ireland. Last bred in Wales in 1994.

Caernarfon: female, Bardsey, 19th July – 1st Aug. (P. Roberts et al).
Immature, 27th – 28th Sept. (S. Hinde).

The female bird was trapped & ringed and was heard calling.

Common Crane (19, 20, 3)
Grus grus
Garan
A rare visitor to Wales from Central Europe where it breeds, wintering in southern Europe around the Mediterranean and Africa.
Anglesey: two, Llanfairynghornwy, 21st Apr.
(A. Melville, per County Recorder).

Stone Curlew (27, 10, 3)
Burhinus oedicnemus *Rhedwr y Moelydd*
Scarce breeding bird in SE England. Commoner on mainland Europe.
Ceredigion: Llanrhystud, 21st Apr. (M. Hughes).
Ynyslas, 15th May (D. Knight).
Brecon: Crai Valley, 17th Aug. (M. Jones per G. Rees). First for the County.

American Golden Plover (2, 8, 1)
Pluvialis dominica
Corgwtiad Aur
Breeds on coastal tundra from extreme NE Siberia, E across N Alaska and Canada to Baffin Island. Migrates over W Atlantic to wintering grounds in S South America. This species dropped off the BBRC list of rare birds, onto the WRP list, as of Jan. 1st 2006.
Gwent: adult, St. Bride's, 23rd – 25th Sept. (DM Spittle). Photo by N. Casburn.
First Welsh record for a couple of years, since those on Anglesey in 2009.

Temminck's Stint (26, 26, 1)
Calidris temmincki
Pibydd Temminck
Breeds northern Scandinavia eastwards across northern Siberia. Winters west and central Africa and south Asia.
Caern. / Denbigh: Conwy RSPB, 3rd May (A. Humphreys-Jones).
Photo opposite.

White-rumped Sandpiper (7, 6, 3)

Calidris fuscicollis *Pibydd Tinwen*

Breeds N Alaska and arctic Canada. Migrates through USA to winter in Central and Southern America. Gower: Llanrhidian Marsh, 20th – 24th Sept. (C. Brewer, M. Hipkin, B. Stewart), then at Weobley 25th & 30th Sept. (B. Stewart, E. Hunter). Photo opposite by B. Stewart Meirionnydd: two, Broadwater, 5th Nov. (RI Thorpe). First for the county.

Pectoral Sandpiper (65, 46, 7)

Calidris melanotos *Pibydd Cain*

Breeds northeast Siberia and northern North America. Winters in southern South America.

Pembroke: two adults, Skokholm, 13th – 14th May, with one remaining on 15th (J. Gillham).

Gwent: adult, Goldcliff, 30th July (C. Jones et al).
juv., St. Brides, 21st – 22nd Sept. (R. Mitchell et al).

Ceredigion: adult, Cors Fochno, 23rd July (M. Bailey et al).

Gower: juv. Llanrhidian Marsh, 19th Sept. – 3rd Oct., with two there on 22nd – 23rd Sept. (photo B. Stewart).

Pectoral Sandpiper at St. Brides by R. Mitchell.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper (31, 17, 11)

Calidris subruficollis *Pibydd Bronllwyd*

Breeds in Alaska and North-west Canada, winters in northern Argentina and Uruguay.

Anglesey: two, South Stack, 14th - 18th Sept (KG Croft).

Gower: Weobley Castle, 21st – 25th & 29th Sept (N. Edwards, photo B. Stewart).

Pembroke: two, Stackpole 21st Sept. (D. & J. Killick).
three, Dale Air Field 23rd – 24th Sept. (K. Meatyard).
two, Kete, 28th – 30th Sept. (B. Southern).

Denbigh: Conwy RSPB, 16th – 18th Sept. (P. Barrett, J. Hughes).

The largest influx Wales has ever seen.

Buff-breasted Sandpipers, above at South Stack, left by R. Sandham & right by S. Culley.
Below left two at Kete by DJ Astins and below right at Llanrhidian by B. Stewart.

Long-billed Dowitcher (5, 8, 1)

Limnodromus scolopaceus *Giach Gylfin-hir*

Breeds primarily in Arctic Siberia where range is expanding W to Lena River delta. North American range restricted to coastal tundra of W and N Alaska, and E to Mackenzie River. Migrates through USA to winter from coastal S USA to N Central America.

Carmarthen: 1st winter, Kidwelly 29th Sept. until 23rd Apr. 2012 (D. Davidson et al).

Ceredigion: Cors Fochno. 23rd – 28th Apr. (J. Davis, M. Hughes, M. Williams et al).
Presumed same as last year's bird.

Kidwelly's Long-billed Dowitcher by B. Stewart.

Lesser Yellowlegs, Alaw Estuary by S. Culley.

Lesser Yellowlegs (9, 6, 1)

Tringa flavipes *Melyngoes Bach*

Breeds northern North America. Winters USA south to southern South America.
Anglesey: juv., Alaw Estuary, 22nd Oct. – 23rd Dec. (M. Sutton et al).

Bonaparte's Gull (3, 12, 1)

Chroicocephalus Philadelphia *Gwylan Bonaparte*

Breeds widely across N North America from W and C Alaska through Canada to James Bay. Winters locally on ice-free rivers and lakes in N USA, and S along both coasts of USA to Mexico and Caribbean.
Anglesey: adult, Traeth Lligwy, 12th Feb. – 27th Mar. (M. Jones, per County Recorder), assumed same as last year's bird at Traeth Dulas in September.
E. Glam: presumed returning adult, Cardiff Bay, 13th – 23rd Mar. (G. Smith, per County Recorder),
Meirionnydd: adult, Porthmadog, 23rd – 31st May (R. Pritchard, E. Lewis et al).
Opposite at Traeth Lligwy by S. Culley, below left in Cardiff by S. Hinton, right in Porthmadog by DJ Astins.

Ring-billed Gull (- , - , 3)
Larus delawarensis *Gwylan Fodrwybig*

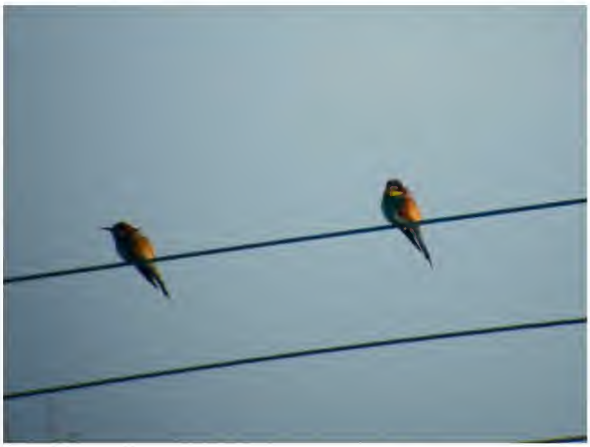
Pembroke: adult, Llys y fran Res., 23rd Jan (DJ Astins, PK Grennard) and 17th Feb. R. Dobbins), returning there 26th Nov. (DJ Astins). adult, Newgale Marsh 26th Dec. (DJ Astins, PK Grennard).

Cere/Pemb: 2nd year, Cardigan, 21st Sept – 30th Oct. (per J. Green). Photo below.

It would appear that there are fewer individuals of this species turning up in Wales these days than ten years ago. It now fits our criteria of less than five a year and it has therefore been added to the WRP list.

Bee-eater (29, 24, 3)
Merops apiaster
Gwybedog y Gwenyn

Scarce visitor from Mediterranean Europe.
Pembroke: two, Pen Anglas, Fishguard, 22nd Apr (SE Berry).
Skomer, 14th June (D. Boyle).
Ceredigion: two, presumed as above, Aberporth 23rd – 24th Apr (per J. Green).
Gower: Wernffrwd, 14th June (N. Edwards).
The Gower and Skomer bird is assumed to refer to the same wandering individual.



Two Bee-eaters, Aberporth by A. Williams.

Golden Oriole (-, 10+, 3)

Oriolus oriolus *Euryn*

Rare visitor from Mediterranean Europe.

Caernarfon: female, Bardsey, 6th – 8th May (SD Stansfield).

Photo. left by B. Porter, right by SD Stansfield.

Isabelline Shrike (1, 5, 1)

Lanius isabellinus *Cigydd Gwdw*

Four races breed widely but discontinuously in C Asia, from Caspian Sea and W Iran through Kazakhstan to Tajikistan, Afghanistan and N Pakistan to S Mongolia and NW China, with isolated population from Zaidam depression to N Tibetan plateau. Winters in NE and E Africa, S Arabian peninsula, S Iran and NW Indian subcontinent.

Pembroke: first winter (probably of the race *L.i. isabellinus*), Porth Clais, 28th Oct. – 7th Nov. (M. Best et al).

Apart from a bird at Nine Wells, Pembroke (Oct. 1995) all the others have come from the north, Holyhead (Oct. 1985), Bardsey (Oct. 1996), Cemlyn (July – Aug. 1998), Llanbedrog (Nov. 2003) and Great Orme 22nd Oct. 2006. Photo below by DJ Astins.

Red-backed Shrike (- , 64, 2)
Lanius collurio
Cigydd Cefngoch
Breeds throughout most of mainland Europe.
Caern. / Den.: female, Conwy RSPB, 4th June (M. Weston).
Pembroke: female, Skomer, 16th Oct. (D. Boyle).
Photo opposite by D. Boyle.

Lesser Grey Shrike (7, 2, 1)
Lanius minor *Cigydd Glas*
Pembroke: 1st summer, St. Justinian's, 4th – 9th July (M. Best et al).
There have been only ten accepted Welsh records of this eastern Mediterranean species, most recently the two in the St. David's area of Pembroke in June – July 1993, 22nd Sept. 1998. Earlier records came from South Stack, Anglesey, May 1961, Shotton, Flint September 1961, Pen-y-groes, Caernarfon June 1967, Skomer, Pembroke September 1974, Ferryside, Carmarthen October 1975, Fan Pool, Montgomery May 1982 and Abersoch, Caernarfon October – November 1986. Photo below by R. Crossen.

Woodchat (67, 26, 8)

Lanius senator *Cigydd Pengoch*

Breeds from France and northwest Africa east to Ukraine and southern Iran. Winters in Africa south of the Sahara.

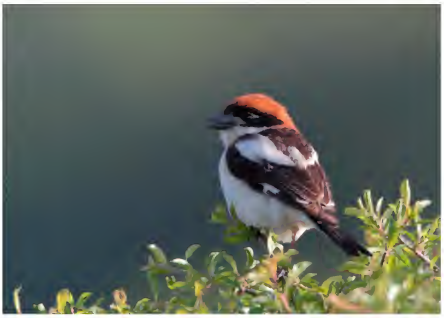
Gower: Male, Llangennith, 9th – 16th Apr. (M. Hipkin, RHA Taylor).
Male, Fairwood Common, 10th – 12th May (W. Thomas).

Ceredigion: Female, Ynyslas, 16th – 18th Apr. (J. Davis).
Female, Teifi Marshes, 24th Apr. (S. Ackland).

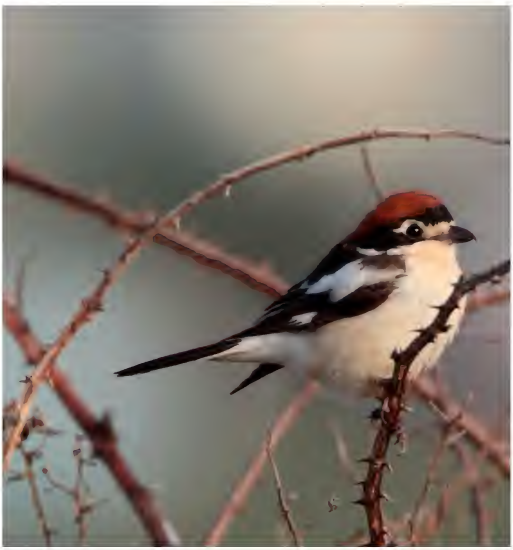
Pembroke: Male, Abereiddy, 22nd – 23rd Apr. (H. Richards).
Female, Whitesands Bay, 25th – 26th Apr. (M. Young-Powell).
Male, Mullock, Dale, 15th – 19th May (D. Buckley).

Caernarfon: 1st year female, Bardsey, 20th – 24th May (S. Hinde).

A bumper harvest this year.



Above: 1st year female, Bardsey by SD Stansfield, right a male at Fairwood Common by RHA Taylor. Below left a female at Ynyslas by K. Joynes and below right a male at Llangennith by RHA Taylor.



Male Woodchat, Mullock Bridge (D. Buckley).

Bearded Tit (- , - , -)

Panurus biarmicus *Titw Barfog*

Resident in the UK (mainly the south East). Erruptive. Bred in Wales in one's or twos mid 1960's – 1980. Rare since.

Individuals have bred for the last four years at the Uskmouth reed-beds of the Newport Wetland Reserve. There were no records elsewhere. WRP has therefore decided to keep this species on its list for Wales excluding records from Gwent, relating to birds at NWR or dispersing from there.

Woodlark (- , 164, 7)
Lullula arbórea
Ehedydd y Coed
Now widespread in Southern and Eastern England.
Caern: Great Orme, 19th Apr. (M. Hughes).
Gwent: Dingestow, 19th Aug. (S. Bosanquet).
Uskmouth, 1st Oct. (C. Mendez).
Peterstone, 16th Oct. (A. Plant).
E. Glam.: Brombil, 20th Oct. (NP Roberts).
Gower: two, Paviland, 30th Oct. (C. Brewer). Photo opposite.

As regards the breeding records, a male was heard singing at a site in Gwent in 2010 but wasn't seen or heard subsequently. The following a year a pair bred at this site, three eggs were found on 25th Apr. and hatched by 5th May but died shortly afterwards. The pair laid a second brood, fledging three by 5th June. Another pair was located nearby and this was thought to have fledged at least one young. Photo opposite.

This species no longer fits our criteria as a scarce or rare bird in Wales and it has therefore been removed from the WRP list as of 1st Jan. 2012.

Red-rumped Swallow (8, 8, 1)
Hirundo daurica *Gwennol Dingoch*
Breeds Iberia, southern France and northwest Africa; Balkans east to Japan and south to Sri Lanka; central Africa. The Western Palearctic population winters in Africa, south of the Sahara.
Caernarfon: Great Orme, 10th Apr. (C. Bridge, Z. Hinchcliffe).

Western Bonelli's Warbler (6, 2, 2)

Phylloscopus bonelli *Telor Bonelli*

Breeding range centred on SW Europe from Iberia to N France, S Germany, Italy, Austria, and locally in mountains of N Africa. Winters along S edge of Sahara, from Senegal and S Mauritania to N Cameroon.

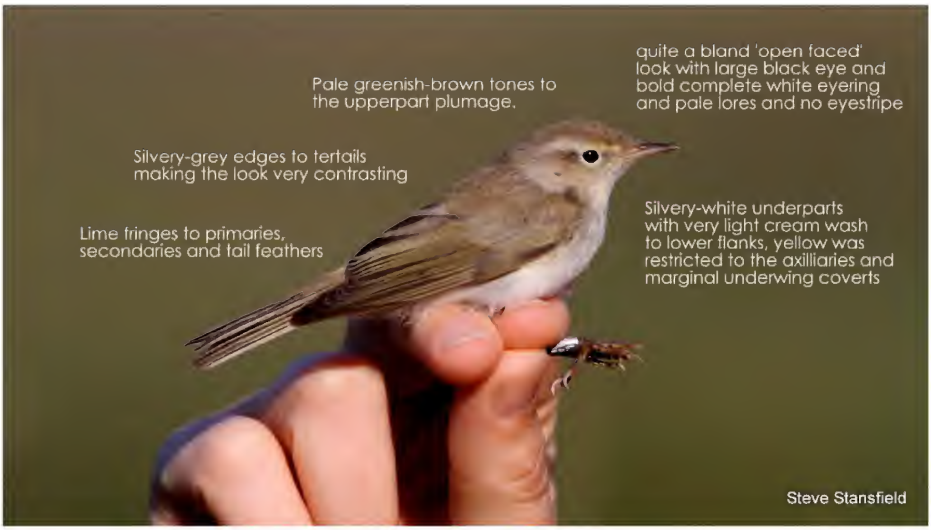
Caernarfon: 1st year, Bardsey, 1st Sept. (SD Stansfield et al).

Pembroke: St. David's Head, 3rd Oct. (M. Young-Powell).

Recently BBRC reviewed all Bonelli's Warbler records, splitting those that they could into Eastern (*orientalis*), Western (*bonellii*) or indeterminate:

Western: on Skokholm 31 Aug. 1948 and on Bardsey 18th Aug. – 5 Sept. 1959, 10th Sept. 1959, 1st – 2nd Sept. 1962, 15th – 20th Sept. 1962, 20th Aug. 1984, 24th – 25th 2006; and below Gwastedyn Hill Radnor 17th – 18th May 2006.

Indeterminate: Lavernock Point, Glamorgan, 30th Aug. 1963, Llaniestyn, Caernarfon 17th Sept. 1968 and Skokholm 31st Aug. 1991.



Western Bonelli's Warbler, Bardsey by SD Stansfield.

Pallas' Warbler (9, 24, 5)

Phylloscopus proregulus *Telor Gwyrdd*

Breeds from south central Siberia, east to Sea of Okhotsk, also Himalayas. Winters Himalayan foothills, northern southeast Asia.

Anglesey: Carmel Head, 16th Oct. (RI Thorpe).

Caernarfon: Bardsey, 26th Oct. (S. Hinde, SD Stansfield et al).
Bardsey, 30th Oct. – 1st Nov. (B. Porter et al).
Bardsey 29th Nov. – 1st Dec. (SD Stansfield).

Pembroke: Skomer, 28th & 30th Oct. (D. Boyle).

Pallas' Warblers: on Bardsey, top left on 26th Oct. by SD Stansfield, top right on 1st Dec. by SD Stansfield and below left on 1st Nov. by B. Porter. Below right on Skomer by D. Boyle.

Barred Warbler (40, 40, 2)

Sylvia nisoria *Telor Rhesog*

Breeds from north Italy, Germany and south Sweden eastwards to Mongolia. Winters northeast Africa south to Kenya and southern Arabia.

Caernarfon: Bardsey, 13th Oct. (S. Hinde). Photo below left by SD Stansfield.

Pembroke: Porth Clais, 6th – 7th Nov. (DW Collins et al). Photo below right.

Subalpine Warbler (18, 33, 1)

Sylvia cantillans *Telor Brongoch*

Four races widely but locally distributed throughout Mediterranean basin from NW Africa and Iberia N to S France, and E to Greece and W Turkey. Winters S of Sahel from Mauritania and Senegal to S Egypt and Sudan. This species dropped off the BBRC list of rare birds, onto the WRP list, as of Jan. 1st 2006 (although the races *albistriata* and *moltoni* are still assessed by them).
Caernarfon: 1st year male, Bardsey, 29th Apr. (S. Hinde).

1st year male *cantillans* Bardsey (SD Stansfield).

This species has become nearly annual on Bardsey, where two were seen nest building last year, but didn't breed, perhaps another sign of global warming.

Eastern race – S. c. albistriata:
2011 Caern.: male, Bardsey, 20th Apr. (B. Porter, SD Stansfield).
2010 Caern.: 1st summer male, in song, Bardsey, 23rd – 26th May (S. Hinde, SD Stansfield et al), photo below by SD Stansfield.

Icterine Warbler (65, 41, 3)
Hippolais icterina
Telor Aur
Breeds from northeast France north to Norway and Sweden and east to western Siberia, also northern Iran. Winters in Africa south of the Sahara.
Caernarfon:
Bardsey, 21st Aug. (B. Porter).
Bardsey, 22nd Aug. (S. Hinde).
Bardsey, 23rd – 26th Aug. (R. Brown).
Three individuals on Bardsey, making this another blank year for the mainland.

Icterine Warbler, Bardsey by R. Brown.

Melodious Warbler (142, 56, 6)
Hippolais polyglotta *Telor Per*
Breeds northeast Africa, Iberia, France, Switzerland and Italy. Winters in Africa, south of the Sahara.
2011 Caern: Bardsey, 26th Aug. (S. Hinde).
Bardsey, 11th Aug. (B. Porter).
Bardsey, 7th Sept. (S. Hinde).
2011 Pemb: Skokholm, 31st July – 1st Aug. (M.Betts).
Skokholm, 19th – 20th Aug. (J. Gillham, S. Sutcliffe).
Martin's Haven, 8th – 14th Aug. (O. Leysham).
2010 Caern.: Bardsey 4th Sept. (T. Chater).
A bumper crop for the islands, as usual, good so see that the work on Skokholm to re-establish a bird observatory is starting to have an effect and that us mainlanders finally got a chance to see this species, with the obliging Martin's Haven bird.

Melodious Warbler at Martin's Haven by P. Mahiques.

Melodious Warbler, trapped on Skokholm, photo by J. Gillham.

Marsh Warbler (11, 10, 0)
Acrocephalus palustris *Telor y Gwerni*
A small population breeds in south England. Main breeding grounds are in Eastern Europe.
2009 Caernarfon: Bardsey, 20th June 2009 (SD Stansfield).

Rose-coloured Starling (26, 55, 6)

Sturnus roseus *Drudwen Wridog*

Breeds from Hungary and Balkans east to Kazakhstan and southern Iran. Occasionally erupts west in summer. Winters in the Indian region.

Anglesey: adult, Rhydwyn, 13th June (M. Blackburn).
juv., Holyhead, 11th Oct. – 26th Nov. (KG Croft).
Meirionnydd: adult, Penllyn Marsh, 11th Aug. (T. McCanna).
Pembroke: juv., Skomer, 29th Sept – 2nd Nov. (D. Boyle).
Caernarfon: juv., Nefyn, 19th Oct. – 4th Nov. (S. Roulston, photo. S. Culley).
Gower: juv., Mumbles Head, 4th – 10th Nov. (M. & T. Green).

Rose-coloured Starlings: above left, a juv. on Skomer by D. Boyle, above right an adult at Rhydwyn by M. Blackburn and right a juv. at Nefyn by S. Culley.

Desert Wheatear (1, 4, 1)

Oenanthe deserti *Tinwen Diffaethwch*

Vagrant. Breeds North Africa and from Caucasus across central Asia. Asian breeders winter Arabian Peninsular to NW India.

Pembroke: Skomer, 15th Nov. (D. Boyle, J. Gillham, C. Taylor).

The first Welsh record came from Penclawdd, Gower 1989, followed by others at Peterstone, Gwent in 1996, Skokholm, Pembroke in 1997 & 2003 and finally at Towyn, Denbigh in 2008. Following photo by D. Boyle.

Isabelline Wheatear (0, 4, 1)

Oenanthe isabellina *Tinwen Isabella*

Small European population restricted to E Greece, Bulgaria, Ukraine and SW Russia. In Asia, breeds widely across arid grasslands from Turkey through Kazakhstan, Mongolia and N China, S to Iran and N Pakistan. Winters from N Sahel zone to E Africa, and throughout Middle East from Arabian peninsula to S Iran, Pakistan and NW India.

Gower: 1st winter male, Wernffrwd 5th – 10th Nov (RHA Taylor et al).

The other Welsh records came from Bardsey in 1997 & 2002, Skokholm 1997 and Mynachdy, Anglesey in 2006. Photo below by RHA Taylor.

Red-breasted Flycatcher (126, 43, 3)

Ficdula parva *Gwybedog Brongoch*

Breeds from southern Sweden south to Austria and Bulgaria eastwards across Siberia. Winters in Pakistan, India and southeast Asia.

Pembroke: 1st winter, Skomer, 28th Sept. (D. Boyle).
1st winter, Skomer, 15th Oct. (D. Boyle).

Caernarfon: 1st winter, Bardsey, 4th – 5th Nov. (G. Eagle, per R. Brown).

Red-breasted Flycatcher, September, on Skomer by D. Boyle.

Red-breasted Flycatcher, Bardsey by R. Brown.

Grey-headed Wagtail (10 , 6, 1)

Motacilla flava thunbergi *Siglen Benllwyd*

Rare visitor. Breeds in Scandinavia, winters in Africa.

Anglesey: Cemlyn, 26th May (D. Wright et al).

Black-headed Wagtail (1, 1, 1)

Motacilla flava feldeg

Anglesey: male, Cemlyn, 6th May(D. Wright).

The only previously accepted records came from Skomer, Pembroke on 7th May 1986 and at Conwy RSPB, 8th – 9th May 1998. Photo right by S. Culley.

Citrine Wagtail (0, 3, 1)

Motacilla citreola *Siglen Sitraidd*

Breeds in small, scattered colonies through S & E Europe from Iberia to Poland. Numerous & widespread from N Black Sea E to W Kazakhstan, with Volga/Ural River complex holding most of European population. Winters tropical W & C Africa & from Nile Delta to E Africa. Other populations in Indian subcontinent, E Asia, S Africa & Australia.

Denbigh: Conwy RSPB, 15th – 16th May (TE Giles, S. Giles et al).

Anglesey: Cemlyn, 17th May (A. Davies, R. Miller).

Both these records are assumed by BBRC to concern the same bird. The first Welsh record came from Skomer in September 2000, the other two were from 2009, when one was also at Conwy RSPB, the other near Brecon. Photos from Conwy by R. Sandham.

Richard's Pipit (86, 168, 15)

Anthus novaeseelandiae *Corhedydd Richard*

Breeds from western Siberia east to Mongolia and south-east Asia, also Africa. Northern population winters in Pakistan and India, east to south-east Asia.

2011 Pemb: St. David's Head, 2nd Nov. (M. Young-Powell).
Marloes Mere, 19th Nov. (DJ Astins).
three individuals on Skomer, 14th & 28th Oct. and 12th Nov. (all D. Boyle).

2011 Caern: Great Orme, 25th Sept – 12th Nov (M. Hughes).
two, Bardsey, 28th Sept. (B. Porter)
Bardsey, 27th Sept. (M. Eldridge).
two, Dinas Dinlle, 27th Nov. (RI Thorpe).

2011 Angle: Cemlyn, 28th Sept. (J. Dyda).
Soldier's Point, 15th Oct. (KG Croft).
Cemaes, 16th Oct. (S. Culley).
Cemlyn, 28th Oct. (RI Thorpe).

2007 Pemb: St. David's Head, 20th Oct. (M. Young-Powell).

This species was added to the WRP list for 2011 only, to assess if there had been any change in its occurrence in Wales. There appears to be more seen each year as observers become more familiar with the species and its ID. Descriptions for this species are not required in the future by WRP.

Tawny Pipit (16, 6, 0)
Anthus campestris
Corhedydd Melyn
A very rare visitor from southern and central Europe.
2007 Caernarfon: Uwchmynydd, Aberdaron, 10th Oct. (S. Renouf, J. Carr). Photo opposite.

Common Rosefinch (39, 86, 5)
Carpodacus erythrinus *Llinos Goch*
Breeds from Germany and southern Sweden eastwards to Kamchatka and from Georgia eastwards to central China. Has bred in Britain on a few occasions. Winters in India, southeast Asia and southern China.
Anglesey: male, Cerrig-man, Amlwch, 29th May – 8th June (photo. J. Swindells).
Gwent: male, Sudbrook, Caldicot, 21st June (E. Stevens).
Pembroke: immature male, Ramsey, 13th July (G. Morgan).
1st / female, Skokholm, 2nd – 11th Sept. (B. Haycock).
1st/female, Skomer 29th Sept. – 1st Oct. (D. Boyle).

Male Rosefinch, Anglesey.

Rosefinch on Skokholm by B. Haycock.

Identification agreed – but bird likely to be escaped/falconers:

Golden Eagle (- , 0, 0)
Aquila chrysaetos *Eryr Euraid*
Breeds in Scotland.
Cere. 4th year, summered around the north of the county (per County Recorder).

APPENDIX I - List of records that were deemed NOT PROVEN

Many of the records were not accepted because the Panel were not convinced, on the evidence before us, that the identification was fully established. Only in a very few cases were the Panel satisfied that a mistake had been made.

Species	Site	County	Date
Great White Egret	Redwick	Gwent	20/11/11
Great White Egret	Uskmoith	Gwent	6/11/11
Great White Egret 5	Cardiff foreshore	E. Glamorgan	26/10/2011
Cattle Egret	Carmarthen Bay	Carmarthen	26/06/2011
White Stork	Pwll, Llanelli	Carmarthen	18/04/2011
Night Heron	Cemmaes, Machynlleth	Montgomery	03/12/2011
Great Shearwater	Skokholm	Pembroke	06/09/2011
Rough-legged Buzzard	Pen y cloddiau	Flint	24/10/2010
Rough-legged Buzzard	Cardiff	E Glamorgan	
Rough-legged Buzzard	Tonfanau	Meirionnydd	26/02/2011
White-tailed Sea Eagle	Strata Florida	Ceredigion	22/01/2010
Montagu's Harrier, female	Strumble	Pembroke	01/05/2011
Montagu's Harrier	Gresford Flash	Denbigh	28/4/10
Ring-billed Gull ad	Ynyslas	Ceredigion	01/09/2011
Alpine Swift	Borras	Denbigh	7/4/10
Nightingale	Bodelwyddan	Denbigh	27/04/2011
Golden Oriole male	Ynyshir	Ceredigion	05/06/2011
Golden Oriole, m & F	Skomer	Pembroke	07/05/2011
BBRC Not-proven:			
Collared Pratincole	Criccieth	Caernarfon	15/9/11
Pied Wheatear	Idwal Slabs	Caernarfon	11/6/11
Black Stork, 10	Llandovery	Carmarthen	8/5/11
Pallid Swift	Aberystwyth	Ceredigion	4/11/11

APPENDIX II - List of records that have been PENDED for more information or requiring further assessment.

American Wigeon female	Portmadog	Meirionnydd	16-17/9/10
Black Brant Goose	Whiteford	Gower	November 2011-2012
Melodious Warbler	Great Orme	Caernarfon	17/5/09
Chiffchaff - tristis	Conwy	Caernarfon	30/11 - 24/12/08
Chiffchaff - tristis	Llyn Coron	Anglesey	19/11 onwards
Chiffchaff - tristis	Sudbrook	Gwent	30/1/11
Arctic Redpoll	Great Orme	Caernarfon	11/4/11
Common Redpoll, 2	Cilcain	Denbigh	9/5/10
Common Redpoll	Ebbw Vale	Gwent	3/3/11
Common Redpolls 5	Great Orme	Caernarfon	10/4/11
Common Redpoll	Ceri Forest	Montgomery	17/4/11
Common Redpoll	Merthyr Tydfil	E. Glamorgan	19/12/10